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ABSTRACT

The major purpose of the Commission and its panels is to work to improve geographic programs at the college level; it is supported by the National Science Foundation. Specific objectives are: 1) to develop approaches to integrate geographic programs within the broader higher education context including interdisciplinary design; 2) develop and publish pertinent materials; 3) advise individuals and institutions in strengthening geography curricula; 4) investigate ways to increase effectiveness of undergraduate programs; and, 5) develop new schemes to improve geography courses and programs. The following Commission panels are active: 1) Resource and Technical Papers; 2) Computer Assisted Learning; 3) Physical Geography; 4) Environmental Education; 5) Two-Year Colleges; 6) Development of Consulting Services; 7) Teacher Education; 8) Evaluation of the Commission's Activities. Listed in the bulletin are documents developed and published by the Commission: 10 titles in a regular series, 8 resource papers, and 4 technical papers. Topics of intended publications are announced, as well as plans for institutes, workshops, and conferences. Other Commission activities are summarized, and officers and members are listed. Single copies of all publications are distributed to members; prices and purchase procedure for bulk quantities are available on request. (Author/JSB)

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A SUMMARY OF THE ACTIVITIES OF THE

COMMISSION ON COLLEGE GEOGRAPHY ASSOCIATION OF AMERICAN GEOGRAPHERS

April, 1971

The Commission on College Geography was established in 1963. It operates under the auspices of the Association of American Geographers, and its activities are supported by grants from the National Science Foundation. The major purpose of the Commission and its panels is to work in various ways to improve geographic programs at the college level compatible to the broader educational needs of colleges and universities throughout the nation. This necessitates continuing investigation and development and distribution of materials concerning the overall role that modern geography should play in college curricula, including programs of study in geography and programs of study to which geography should contribute significantly. Specifically, the major objectives of the Commission and its working panels are to:

- 1) develop approaches to integrate geographic programs within the broader higher education context, including participation in interdisciplinary curriculum efforts;
- 2) develop and publish pertinent materials to facilitate the incorporation of recent developments and recent research in undergraduate programs;
- 3) advise individuals and institutions in strengthening geography curricula;
- 4) investigate ways and means to increase the effectiveness of undergraduate courses, including the development of new techniques of presentation; and
- 5) generate, discuss and develop new schemes to improve undergraduate geography courses and programs.

WORK OF THE COMMISSION TO DATE

The Commission and its working panels have developed, published, and distributed the following documents:

Regular Series

The regular series of publications are designed for widespread use by instructors of college geography courses and related fields. The documents that have been developed to date are:

- CCG Publication No. 1—Geography in Undergraduate Liberal Education, 1965 (out of print).
CCG Publication No. 2—A Basic Geographical Library: A Selected and Annotated Book List for American Colleges, 1966.
CCG Publication No. 3—Geographic Manpower: A Report on Manpower in American Geography, 1966 (out of print).
CCG Publication No. 4—New Approaches in Introductory College Geography Courses, 1967.
CCG Publication No. 5—Introductory Geography: Viewpoints and Themes, 1967 (out of print).
CCG Publication No. 6—Undergraduate Major Programs in American Geography, 1968.
CCG Publication No. 7—A Survey Course: The Energy and Mass Budget at the Surface of the Earth, 1968.
CCG Publication No. 8—A Systems Analytic Approach to Economic Geography, 1968.
CCG Publication No. 9—A Geographical Bibliography for American College Libraries, 1970.
CCG Publication No. 10—Geography in the Two-Year Colleges, 1970.

Resource Papers

The Resource Papers are designed for student use as well as the instructor. The topics of these documents are concerned with important subject matter which is not normally included in current texts nor readily accessible in current literature. These papers translate recent research developments and conceptual ideas into documents from which instructors of undergraduate courses can select to supplement existing text material. The Resource Papers developed to date are:

- Resource Paper No. 1—Theories of Urban Location, 1968.
Resource Paper No. 2—Air Pollution, 1968.
Resource Paper No. 3—Perspectives on Geomorphic Processes, 1969.
Resource Paper No. 4—Spatial Diffusion, 1969.
Resource Paper No. 5—Perception of Environment, 1969.
Resource Paper No. 6—Social Processes in the City: Race and Urban Residential Choice, 1969.

Resource Paper No. 7—The Spatial Expression of Urban Growth, 1969.

Resource Paper No. 8—The Political Organization of Space, 1971.

Technical Papers

The Technical Papers are designed for college geography instructors as they modify their existing courses and programs. The Technical Papers developed to date are:

Technical Paper No. 1—Field Training in Geography, 1968.

Technical Paper No. 2—Computer Assisted Instruction in Geography, 1969.

Technical Paper No. 3—Evaluating Geography Courses: A Model with Illustrative Applications, 1970.

Technical Paper No. 4—Living Maps of the Field Plotter, 1971.

The Commission, in cooperation with selected universities, has developed several specialized Summer Institutes for College Teachers of Geography, supported by the National Science Foundation or the Office of Education, over the period of the last few years. These institutes have been held at the Ohio State University; University of Minnesota; University of Florida; and the University of Delaware.

CURRENT AND PROPOSED ACTIVITIES

Development of Published Materials

During the April, 1971 to December, 1971 period, the Commission's Panel on Resource and Technical Papers will develop, publish, and distribute twelve additional *Resource Papers*. The topics will fall in the four general areas of: Environment and Man; The Space Economy; Social Processes in the City; and The Political Organization of Space.

Four additional *Technical Papers* will be developed during this period. Authors have been identified and the topics will be: Bibliography of Mathematical Applications in Geography; Linear Models of Land Use; Simulation; and Bibliography of Statistical Applications in Geography.

Eight, or possibly nine papers, developed under the auspices of the Panel on Physical Geography, will be published as additional *Resource Papers* by December, 1971. The authors have been selected and the topics are: Permafrost and Man; Open and Closed Systems; Water Management and Stream Regimes; Urban Climatology; Facets of Water Utilization;

Concepts in Climatology; and the Interface Approach to Introductory Geography Courses (possible *Technical Paper*). A *Regular Series* publication dealing with the status, trends, and future direction for physical geography is in preparation. The panel has developed an informal *Physical Geography/Environmental Newsletter* circulated on an irregular basis to physical geographers and others; and a selected reference list of *Inexpensive Books in Physical Geography* which may be obtained free of charge upon request. The panel has also initiated *Physical Geography/Environmental Regional Workshops* that brings together physical geographers within a local area.

Four additional *Computer Assisted Learning Units* will be developed during the April, 1971 to December, 1971 period. The topics will fall in the areas of: Energy-Water Balance and the Hydrological Cycle; Land Use Decisions; Central Place Theory; Service Systems; and Relative Location Advantages. The Commission's role is primarily one of initiating an activity that might otherwise not have been done. The work of the Commission will provide a pool of persons trained in the educational use of the computer (present and future developers of CAI units); provide materials that can be included immediately in existing college courses; and disseminate information and training to others in the field and related disciplines. It is anticipated that additional CAI work in the future will be done by local institutions and individuals spinning off from, and as a result of, the efforts of the Commission.

Institutes and Workshops

The Commission plans to develop, jointly with selected universities and colleges, *Institutes for Geography Teachers in Two-Year Colleges*. One of the institutes proposed will be a six-week summer program in 1972 for two-year college geography teachers who have little or no formal training in geography. Other institutes that the Commission will encourage provide for a cooperative program in which the geography teachers in the two-year colleges work closely with the faculty at a large and well-established four-year college or university. The first of these regional institutes, supported by the National Science Foundation, will be held at the University of Iowa beginning in the fall of 1971.

The Commission organizes sessions and workshops to be presented at the Annual Meetings of the Association. The Commission session for the April, 1971 Meetings will focus on the status of geography in the two-year colleges. In addition, the Panel on Physical Geography has organized a one-day workshop on Instrumentation and Measurement in Climatology. The Panel on Computer Assisted Learning has

organized an informal demonstration concerning computer assisted learning units developed, or in the process of being developed; and the Commission was instrumental in organizing a session focusing on the Distinguished Geographer Film Interviews developed by the Department of Geography, U. S. Air Force Academy.

Other short conferences and workshops at the local and regional level emphasizing some aspect of undergraduate college geography will be planned at a later date.

Other Commission Activities

As the result of the many requests received by the Association of American Geographers and the Commission to advise on the development and expansion of geography courses and programs, the Association and Commission are presently developing a mechanism to provide *Consulting Services*. Most requests are from institutions which do not offer geography at the present time but wish to include geography in future programs; or from small departments that are revising their curriculum, expanding their offerings, or developing a major program.

In the fall of 1970, an *Ad Hoc* Panel was established and a meeting was held to define the framework, objectives and functions of a consulting service. At this meeting, a Steering Committee of six persons was appointed to act as a Panel of the Commission and to organize a second meeting to be scheduled in the spring of 1971. This meeting will bring together several additional resource persons to refine the framework document and define areas which require the development of guidelines to be used by consultants at a future time.

The Commission is in its eighth year of operation and it is desirable that the Commission determine what impact its activities have had to date. This evaluation will be carried out under the direction of Commission member J. Thomas Hastings. A questionnaire will be distributed in the spring of 1971 to approximately 1,000 members of the Association selected on a structured random sample basis. It is hoped that the results of these evaluations will have a bearing on the future work of the Commission and perhaps the manner in which some of the Commission work may be assumed by other groups in future years. It is also possible that the evaluations may bring to light new perspectives which have not been investigated to date.

will explore ways to develop instructional materials for college geography courses. It will coordinate its efforts with the recently established Task Force on Man in Environmental Systems. *The Panel on Teacher Education*, established in October, 1970, will continue the exploration and implementation of the contribution of undergraduate geography to the preparation of pre-service teachers. A close coordination will be maintained between this panel and the many activities being initiated by the Association's Commission on Geographic Education.

COMMUNICATIONS

The Commission maintains communications with the academic community by publishing items in the Association's monthly newsletter, presenting programs at the National and Divisional Meetings of the Association of American Geographers, national and regional meetings of other professional organizations, and State Academies of Science. The Commission and its working panels hold their meetings on college campuses and formally or informally discuss the work of the Commission and problems in college geography with the staff of the host and neighboring institutions. The Commission participates in inter-commission panels and individuals of the Commission consult individuals, departments, institutions, and college associations upon request. Requests for Commission materials have been received from most colleges and universities in the United States and a large number of requests have been received from institutions and individuals in Australia, New Zealand, Europe, Asia, Africa, and Latin America.

A recent meeting of the Panel on Two-Year Colleges in March, 1971 was held in conjunction with the annual meeting of the Association of American Junior Colleges. The Panel organized a formal session that was included on the program, prepared a display of AAG and CCG materials, and held several informal discussions with Two-Year College Administrators. In addition, the panel Chairman, James R. Anderson, has written an article, "Geography in the Two-Year Colleges", which appears in the February, 1971 issue of the *Junior College Journal*.

COMPOSITION OF THE COMMISSION (as of APRIL 1, 1971)

The members of the Commission are appointed to a three-year term of office by the Council of the Association of American Geographers. The Com-

mission is composed of fifteen distinguished scholars, including persons from related disciplines. The members' terms of office are staggered, and normally five new members are appointed each year. The composition of the Commission at any specific time reflects a wide range of the major subfields of the discipline; representatives from large universities, medium-size universities, and smaller four-year colleges; and a geographical cross-section of institutions in various sections of United States and Canada.

Commission Officers

Commission Chairman—Melvin G. Marcus, Professor of Geography and Chairman of the Department of Geography, University of Michigan.

Director of the Commission—John F. Lounsbury, Professor of Geography and Chairman of the Department of Geography, Arizona State University.

Associate Director of the Commission—Salvatore J. Natoli, Educational Affairs Director, Association of American Geographers.

Commission Members

John S. Adams, Associate Professor of Geography, University of Minnesota.

James R. Anderson, Professor of Geography, University of Florida.

Harold J. Barnett, Professor of Economics, Washington University.

Richard D. Dastyck, Division of Social Sciences, Fullerton Junior College.

Paul W. English, Professor of Geography, University of Texas.

Gordon J. Fielding, Associate Professor of Geography, University of California, Irvine.

J. Thomas Hastings, Professor of Education and Director, Center for Instructional Research and Curriculum Evaluation, University of Illinois.

Richard E. Lonsdale, Professor of Geography, University of North Carolina.

Ian R. Manners, Assistant Professor of Geography, Columbia University.

Marvin W. Mikesell, Professor of Geography and Chairman of the Department of Geography, University of Chicago.

Edward T. Price, Professor of Geography, University of Oregon.

Harold M. Rose, Professor of Geography, University of Wisconsin, Milwaukee.

Kennard W. Ramage, Professor of Geography and Chairman of the Department of Geography, State University College, Brockport, New York.

Harold A. Winters, Professor of Geography, Michigan State University.

Ex-Officio Members

Norton S. Ginsburg, President, Association of American Geographers.

Edward J. Taaffe, Vice President, Association of American Geographers.

Wesley C. Calef, Secretary, Association of American Geographers.

Robert D. Hodgson, Treasurer, Association of American Geographers.

J. Warren Nystrom, Executive Director, Association of American Geographers.

Commission Panels

The working panels of the Commission are usually composed of Commission members as well as other specialists. The panels active at the present time are:

Panel on Resource and Technical Papers

Paul W. English, *Chairman*, University of Texas.

Ian Burton, University of Toronto.

Leslie J. King, McMaster University.

Harold M. Rose, University of Wisconsin, Milwaukee.

Robert H. T. Smith, Queen's University.

Edward W. Soja, Northwestern University.

Philip L. Wagner, Simon Fraser University.

Panel on Computer Assisted Learning

Gordon J. Fielding, *Co-chairman*, University of California, Irvine.

Kennard W. Ramage, *Co-chairman*, State University College, Brockport, New York.

Edward B. Espenshade, Jr., Northwestern University.

Robert E. Huke, Dartmouth College.

Gerard Rushton, University of Iowa.

Panel on Physical Geography

Harold A. Winters, *Chairman*, Michigan State University.

James M. Goodman, University of Oklahoma.

Ian R. Manners, Columbia University.
Melvin G. Marcus, University of Michigan.

Panel on Environmental Education

Ian R. Manners, *Co-chairman*, Columbia University.
Marvin W. Mikesell, *Co-chairman*, University of Chicago.
Ian Burton, University of Toronto.
Melvin G. Marcus, University of Michigan.
Harold A. Winters, Michigan State University.

Panel on Two-Year Colleges

James R. Anderson, *Chairman*, University of Florida.
Richard D. Dastyck, Fullerton Junior College.
Leonard L. Hodgman, Joliet Junior College.
Richard E. Lonsdale, University of North Carolina.
Curtis S. Murton, Jr., Mid Michigan Community College.
Stanley H. Ross, San Fernando Valley State College.
Kennard W. Ramage, State University College, Brockport, New York.
Thomas P. Templeton, Mesa Community College.

Panel on the Development of Consulting Services

Lawrence M. Sommers, *Chairman*, Michigan State University.
Richard D. Dastyck, Fullerton Junior College.
Robert E. Huke, Dartmouth College.
John F. Lounsbury, Arizona State University.
Salvatore J. Natoli, Association of American Geographers.
Harold M. Rose, University of Wisconsin, Milwaukee.

Panel on Teacher Education

John S. Adams, *Chairman*, University of Minnesota.
Salvatore J. Natoli, Association of American Geographers.
Resource persons to be used as needed.

Panel on the Evaluation of the Commission's Activities

J. Thomas Hastings, *Chairman*, University of Illinois.
Resource persons to be used as needed.

PUBLICATIONS OF THE COMMISSION

All development and publishing costs of the Commission's publications are supported by grants from the National Science Foundation. The publications are designed to supplement existing text materials and to bring to light new ideas and innovations. The publications represent viewpoints of individual authors and do not imply endorsement by the Association of American Geographers nor the National Science Foundation. Single copies of all publications are distributed to members of the Association free of charge.

Publications currently in print may be purchased in bulk quantities by individuals, bookstores, and organizations. For information concerning costs and how publications may be obtained, address requests to:

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